

CALVERT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

175 Main Street Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678 410-535-1600 • 301-855-1243 www.calvertcountymd.gov **Board of Commissioners**

Christopher J. Gadway Earl F. Hance Mike Hart Kelly D. McConkey Steven R. Weems

April 10, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Senator Michael A. Jackson

Re: SB858/HB1316 - Gaming - Electronic Instant Bingo Machines - Maximum Number of Machines

Senator Jackson:

As co-sponsor, we write to express our concern regarding SB858. At Third Reading in the Senate, this Bill allows certain holders of Electronic Bingo licenses to have additional machines. We wrote previously to support with amendment; absent amendment, we oppose this Bill. The amendment we first requested provided that the County receive, directly, 6% of the State admissions and amusement tax instead of the 4% received indirectly today. With that, the total State admission and amusement tax collected on electronic bingo in Calvert County would have equaled that distributed directly to Anne Arundel County. From the Third Reading in the Senate, we see this amendment has been rejected.

As a compromise, we request the Bill be amended in Ways & Means, the crossover Committee, to provide Calvert County authority to impose an Admissions and Amusement Tax of 1% on the net proceeds of electronic bingo in Calvert County. This revenue, like that from the Youth Opportunities Fund, supports resources, including the Harriet E. Brown Community Center. Without at least this amendment, we must oppose the Bill.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact County Administrator Julian M. Willis at 410-535-1600, extension 2201, or County Attorney John Norris at 410-535-1600, extension 2566. Thank you for your urgent consideration of our position regarding this important Bill.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CALVERT COUNTY, MD

Earl F. Hance

Steven R. Weems

Christopher J. Gadway

Mike Hart

Kelly D. McConkey

cc: The Honorable President Bill Ferguson

The Honorable Speaker Adrienne A. Jones

The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone

The Honorable Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair, Ways & Means

The Honorable Delegate Eric G. Luedtke

The Honorable Senator Jack Bailey and the Calvert County Delegation